



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 06/20/2007

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 20, 2007

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbara Cutler, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Barbara Jones,
Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hillaire

Members Absent:

Others Present: Annie LaCourt, Chairman Arlington Board of Selectmen
John Bean, Director of Public Works
Jane Howard, Co-Chair Vision 2020 Standing Committee
Miriam Stein, Diversity Task Force
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator
Other Residents & Disability Advocates

Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2007:

The Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2007 were tabled until the July 18, 2007 Meeting.

Discussion regarding accessibility Issues with Annie LaCourt and John Bean:

Barbara Jones asked John Bean if he were aware that tactile warnings such as truncated domes are required by Federal Regulations when curb cut ramps are installed. John Bean said that Arlington currently has no written construction standards; however John said that he intends to prepare construction standards for the Town, which will include that tactile warnings are required to be installed at curb cut ramps.

Barbara Jones asked if the Town would create a plan to address curb cut ramp work that doesn't require CDBG funding. John Bean recommended that before other funding is considered that an inventory be developed of all street crossings where curb cut ramps are none existing and a inventory of all street crossings where curb cut ramps exist but are non conforming to required regulations.

A resident expressed concern regarding the brick ramp at the front of the Town Hall, brick walkway near the Central Fire Station, the difficulty in finding curb cut ramps in East Arlington and access to the Community Room at the Robbins Library. John Bean said that Public Works is developing a computerized work order system that will enable residents concerns to be more efficiently resolved.

Marie Bell said that curb cut ramps are especially needed on Tufts Street across from the Gibbs Building because a few individuals that use wheelchairs cross the street at this location in order to participate in activities located in the Gibbs Building.

Annie LaCourt said that she decided to attend the Disability Commission Meeting because she sensed that the Disability Commission and the Board of Selectmen were not connecting on certain issues. Annie LaCourt said that often the Board of Selectmen hears about concerns of the Disability Commission after the Selectmen could have done something about the concerns.

Barbara Cutler asked Annie LaCourt how the Commission could convince the Board of Selectmen that the Town should view curb cut ramps as a funding priority. Annie LaCourt said that the Town has many projects that need funding and that the Board of Selectmen does realize the importance of curb cut ramps.

Annie LaCourt said that John Maher, Town Counsel, would be requested to obtain an opinion from the Federal Civil Rights Department as to whether the Town is violating civil rights legislation by not having curb cut ramps at all crosswalks. Annie LaCourt said in order to prepare a plan as to the funding level for curb cut ramps the Town will first need to determine an inventory of all crosswalks that need curb cut ramps. Annie LaCourt said that it is the Town's moral and legal responsibility to guarantee that every citizen's civil rights are protected.

Kerrie Fallon said that the Disability Commission should be more involved in development issues within the Town. Annie LaCourt said that she agreed that the Commission should be involved in the permitting process.

Barbara Cutler requested additional staffing for the Commission. Annie LaCourt said that absolutely no additional staff would be considered over the next three years. Barbara Cutler also asked about clearing snow from the Donald Marquis Trial. Annie LaCourt said that the Board of Selectmen would hold a meeting this fall with the abutters and other interested groups regarding clearing snow from the Trial.

Annie LaCourt said that she plans to attend a Commission Meeting during the fall.

Barbara Jones wanted to know if the Board of Selectmen are on board about turning on audible signals as is required by regulations, specifically the audible signal at Summer and Overlook. Barbara Jones said that the Town could be reimbursed 80% for audible pedestrian signals.

Town Day:

Jack said that Town Day 2007 is scheduled for Saturday September 8 with a rain date of Saturday September 15.

Summer Meeting Schedule:

Kerrie Fallon recommended that the Commission meet during both July and August.

Legislative Update:

Barbara Cutler said that the State Legislature is working on the budget.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00